

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
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SUBJ: CYPRUS IN TURKISH PRESS

REF: ANKARA 6017 (DTG 111414Z AUG 77)

1. SINCE FLURRY OF ARTICLES JUST AFTER MAKARIOS' DEATH, TURKISH PRESS OVERALL HAS SHOWN MODERATE LEVEL OF INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENTS IN CYPRUS, PARTICULARLY QUESTION OF SUCCESSOR TO MAKARIOS, HIS STATUS IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ALLEGED FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT IN THE SUCCESSION ISSUE, AND SECURITY IN THE GREEK CYPRIOT SECTOR. EDITORIAL COMMENTARY HAS CONCENTRATED ON THE SAME ISSUES AND EXPANDED TO BROADER QUESTIONS OF US-TURKISH AND GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS. LEFTIST PRESS SEEMS TO BE TRYING TO KEEP VAROSHA ISSUE ALIVE TO EMBARRASS DEMIREL GOVERNMENT.

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2. SENSATIONALIST GUNAYDIN, WHICH HAS PAID MORE ATTENTION TO CYPRUS THAN OTHER PAPERS, HAS RUN SERIES OF ARTICLES THIS WEEK HIGHLIGHTING GREEK CYPRIOT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN CYPRUS. ON AUGUST 16, REPORTING THAT GREEK CYPRIOT POLITICAL LEADERS HAD AGREED THAT KYPRIANOU SHOULD BE SOLE CANDIDATE TO REPLACE MAKARIOS DURING SEPTEMBER TO FEBRUARY PERIOD, GUNAYDIN CLAIMED THAT AGREEENT

WAS REACHED UNDER PRESSURE FROM GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES AND SPECULATED THAT THE CIA AND GREEK INTELLIGENCE SERVICE ARE WORKING TO SECURE THE ELECTION OF CLERIDES IN FEBRUARY. AUGUST 17 EDITION PLAYED UP REPORTED PREPARATIONS FOR CIVIL WAR IN GREEK SECTOR OF CYPRUS, INCLUDING WARNINGS ALLEGEDLY ISSUED TO FOREIGNERS TO GET READY TO LEAVE. AUGUST 18 PAPER REPORTED ARMED CLASHES FOR THE THIRD TIME IN LESS THAN A WEEK BETWEEN EOKA-B AND LYSSARIDES' SUPPORTERS ON AUGUST 17. NESMEN WERE ALSO REPORTEDLY FORBIDDEN FOR "SECURITY" REASONS TO ENTER THE LIMASSOL AREA WHERE THE CLASHES TOOK PLACE.

3. HURRIYET'S RESPECTED COLUMNIST METIN TOKER HAS COMMENTED THAT THERE IS NO NEED FOR ANY KIND OF TURKISH INTERVENTION IN CYPRUS. SAYING THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR RESTORATION OF LAW AND ORDER IN THE GREEK CYPRIOT AREA RESTS WITH THE GREEKS, TOKER URGES THAT EVEN IF GREEK CYPRIOT DISPUTES SPILL OVER INTO THE TURKISH SECTOR, UNFICYP, NOT TURKEY, MUST ACT. TOKER ALSO SAYS THAT THE DEATH OF MAKARIOS PUTS A "FREEZE" ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW GOVERNMENT WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE GREEK CYPRIOT COMMUNITY MAY BE A LENGTHY PROCESS, AND GREEK EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE UNITY WILL OBSTRUCT PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, TOKER SUGGESTS THAT THIS IS THE TIME FOR TURKEY AND THE US TO SEEK A LOGICAL SOLUTION FOR THE ARMS EMBARGO. HE CONCLUDES, "IF THE DEATH OF MAKARIOS COMPELS THE GOVERNMENTS IN ANKARA AND WASHINGTON TO TAKE UP THE ARMS EMBARGO FROM A VERY FRESH ANGLE, THE BENEFIT WILL BE MORE THAN THE MISFORTUNE." UNCLASSIFIED

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4. ALI SIRMEN, WRITING IN CUMHURİYET, HAS CONTRIBUTED TO AN APPARENT OPPOSITION CAMPAIGN TO EMBARRASS DEMIREL ON THE VAROSHA ISSUE. COMMENTING ON A LONDON SUNDAY TIMES REPORT THAT DEMIREL WILL NOT IMPLEMENT THE ECEVIT DECISION TO OPEN VAROSHA TO SETTLEMENT, SIRMEN CLAIMS THAT TURKISH FAILURE TO DEVELOP THE VAROSHA AREA HAS RAISED GREEK CYPRIOT EXPECTATIONS THAT AREA WILL BE RETURNED AS PART OF SETTLEMENT AND HAS MADE IT APPEAR TO BE A VALUELESS CONCESSION. ACCORDING TO SIRMEN, IT IS INTERESTING THAT THE CABINET'S CYPRUS HARDLINERS, TURKES AND ERBAKAN, HAVE BEEN SILENT RECENTLY, AND HE WONDERS IF THESE "TOUGH" LEADERS WILL BE ABLE TO IMPLEMENT THE DECISION OF "MODERATE" ECEVIT ON VAROSHA.

5. EDITORIAL IN PRO-NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY BAYRAK ON AUGUST 12 STATES THAT WHILE THE US, BRITAIN, AND OTHER WESTERN POWERS HAVE EXTENDED RECOGNITION TO MAKARIOS' SUCCESSOR, TURKEY MUST STAND READY TO CALL ON THESE STATES TO JUSTIFY THEIR RECOGNITION OF "A LEADER OF A COMMUNITY ELECTED WITHOUT ITS CONSENT UNDER A CONSTITUTION WHICH WAS SHELVED BY MAKARIOS." EDITORIAL CLAIMS THAT NEW SITUATION IS CLEAR PROOF OF BLIND AND FANATICAL SUPPORT OF WESTERN COUNTRIES FOR GREEK CYPRIOT CAUSE, WHICH LEADS TURKS

TO BELIEVE THAT THE WEST DOES NOT WANT A JUST SOLUTION IN CYPRUS,
BUT ONLY THE KIND OF SOLUTION ENVISAGED BY THE GREEK CYPRIOTS.
REFERRING TO THE REMARKS OF SECRETARY CLIFFORD DURING HIS CYPRUS
NEWS CONFERENCE, THE EDITORIAL COMMENTS THAT IT IS STUPID TO
BELIEVE THAT HE WILL WORK FOR A JUST SOLUTION OR THAT HE CAN STILL BE
ACCEPTED AS A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE. IN CONCLUSION, EDITORIAL SAYS
THAT THE TURKS ARE JUSTIFIED IMMEDIATELY TO OPEN VAROSHA TO
SETTLEMENT, REJECT THE NEW GREEK CYPRIOT LEADER AS PRESIDENT OF
CYPRUS, AND TAKE DECISIONS WHICH WILL GUARANTEE THE FUTURE AND
THE SECURITY OF THE LIVES AND PROPERTY OF THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS
WHILE HELPING THEM TO ACHIEV ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, AND SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT.
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